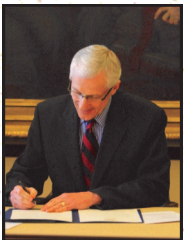




# UTAH MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

STRENGTHENING AND EMPOWERING UTAH'S MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY

## IN THIS ISSUE:



▶ LT. GOV. GREG BELL SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING MCA AND MCC

PAGE 1



▶ TOM HUYNH BECOMES FIRST ETHNIC MINORITY ELECTED TO THE WVC COUNCIL

PAGE 1,2



▶ 2012 UTAH STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION RUNS FROM JAN. 23, THROUGH MARCH 8, 2012

PAGE 3



▶ UTAH CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

PAGE 3

## Multicultural Commission

On Jan. 17, 2012 Governor Gary R. Herbert and Lt. Governor Greg Bell signed an Executive Order establishing the Multicultural Affairs (MCA) and Multicultural Commission (MCC).

MCA was established to develop a culturally-diverse outreach program for all ethnic communities. To accomplish its goals, MCA collaborates with MCC to gather and discuss information about the issues and concerns of the ethnic constituents of Utah and develops recommendations as to how the State can respond to issues impacting the ethnic community.

The MCC is a voluntary commission, appointed by the Governor and chaired by the Lt. Governor to promote collaboration and communication to the business and ethnic communities while also partnering with State agencies to assure equity and access.

MCC is composed of members representing the State agencies and leadership within the ethnic community. Each member serves on a subcommittee focusing on the following: Corrections, Economic Development, Education, Health, and Creative Partnerships.



**Top Row:** Thomas Patterson, Byron Russell, James Whitaker, Jeff Herring, Dr. Roderic Land; **Middle Row:** Dr. Robert Rolfs, Maria Recto, Steven Ha, Eunice Jones, Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Julie Fisher, Sophia DiCaro, Claudia Nakano, James Jackson III, Avery Bocage, Samantha Eldridge; **Bottom Row:** Aden Batar, Benjamin Au, Mani Grewal, Lt. Governor Bell, Bev Uipi, Olga de la Cruz



## West Valley City Elects Its First Ethnic Minority

Tom Huynh, a refugee from Vietnam, made history on Jan. 3, 2012 by becoming the first ethnic minority elected to the West Valley City Council. However, his path to the Council was not an easy one. At age 19, Councilman Huynh escaped from Vietnam and found his way to a refugee camp in the Philippines, where he worked as a volunteer deputy commissioner. In 1988, he emigrated to the United States. He attended Portland Community College to learn English and saved money to pay his own way on a church mission in Washington, D.C. to serve Southeast Asian refugees. He later served as President of the Vietnamese Community of Utah.

His experiences have given him the confidence, self discipline, and leadership skills to serve on the West Valley City Council, which represents the second largest city in Utah with **(Continued on Page 2)**



Greg Hardy, Jane Shock, Byron Russell, Ray Child

## Creative Partnerships

Jane Shock of American Express, Greg Hardy of Chevron, and Ray Child of Comcast, were invited by the Creative Partnership Subcommittee to illustrate successful current public/private corporate partnerships and possible programs for future collaboration.

Jane Shock described programs and events American Express sponsors through their Center for Community Development. The goal of American Express is to meet the needs of underserved communities through community capacity building, training, and partnerships.

Greg Hardy described Chevron's Fuel Your School program, which reached out to educators, parents, and teachers to help fund projects to students in K-12.

Lastly, Ray Child described Comcast's Internet Essentials, a service intended to connect low-income families to the Internet by making it easy and affordable. The goal is to target families who otherwise would not have computer or Internet access and provide them with a low-cost service to fill the digital divide gap.

## West Valley City Elects Its First Ethnic Minority

(Continued from Page 1) about 45 percent ethnic minority residents. It is evident Councilman Huynh is committed to serving others and has a deep desire to be involved in public service. His experience with ethnic minorities will be invaluable to the residents of West Valley City.

Councilman Huynh holds a B.A. in Asian Studies from Brigham Young University and works as a commercial agent for Home and Family Realty, Inc. He is married and has two sons.

## Boys & Girls Clubs Announce Youth of the Year

Established in 1947, Youth of the Year is BGCA's premier recognition program for Club members, promoting service to Club, community and family; academic success; strong moral character; life goals; and poise and public speaking ability. The program is most effective for fostering young people's character, personal growth and leadership qualities. Youth selected represent their clubs in the 2012 Utah State Youth of the Year Competition on Feb. 8, 2012.

### Student Spotlights:

Zakaria Mohamed of the Capitol West Club has been named as 2012 Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Salt Lake. Zak, age 17, attends West High School. His family is from Somalia, but he was born in a refugee camp in Kenya. He and his mother and sister moved to the United States three years ago. Since that time, Zak has been active at the Capitol West Club and has even headed up fund-raising projects to benefit UNICEF.



Berenice Yañez has been attending the Boys & Girls Club in Midvale for over 8 years. She has been a member of the Keystone Leadership Club for 3 years and enjoys activities like art and sports. In 2011, Berenice was a participant of the SHEjumps ski program and developed some great skills on the slopes! Berenice is totally driven to succeed in anything she does, especially when it comes to education. With this she plans to study architecture.



## Does Contemporary Racial Animus Play a Major Role in Voting?

In an article entitled *The Effects of Racial Animus on Voting: Evidence Using Google Search Data*, Seth Stephens-Davidowitz recognizes that traditional surveys struggle to capture socially unacceptable attitudes such as racial animosity and yield little evidence that racial animus has a major impact in U.S. elections. For this reason, Stephens-Davidowitz uses Google searches of racially charged language to assess the impact of racial attitudes on voting during the election of Barack Obama, the then 2008 black Democratic presidential candidate.

Using the Google-search proxy and administrative voting records, Stephens-Davidowitz found that West Virginia was the most racially charged state whereas Utah ranked the lowest (Figure 1). Moreover, he found that racial attitudes played a significant role in the 2008 presidential election and his findings indicate that racial animus in the United States cost Obama three to five percentage points in the national popular vote in the 2008 election.

Stephens-Davidowitz concludes that it is important to study racially charged animosity towards other groups to help us understand the causes of animus and to teach us how to alleviate or contain these attitudes. To read the entire article, visit <http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~sstephen/papers/RacialAnimusAndVotingSethStephensDavidowitz.pdf>

Source: Stephens-Davidowitz, Seth. 2011. "The Effects of Racial Animus on Voting: Evidence Using Google Search Data." Harvard.

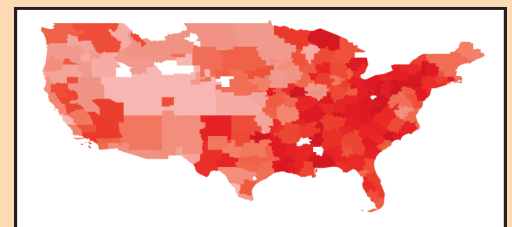


Figure 1: Racially Charged Search





## 2012 General Session

The 2012 Utah State Legislature General Session began on Jan. 23, 2012 and ends on March 8, 2012. Proposed legislation regarding education appears to be at the forefront of this year's legislative session, although there appears to be several bills which may impact members of the ethnic community if passed.

The following information does not reflect the views or opinions of the Utah Department of Community and Culture, the Multicultural Affairs Office, or the Multicultural Commission.

### BILLS TO WATCH:

**HB0088 Custody Amendments.** This bill adds to the divorce statute a statement that the court may not discriminate against a parent based on age, race, color, national origin, religious preference, or gender when deciding custody.

**HB0203 Parental Rights Revisions.** This bill provides that before ordering termination, the court shall consider whether terminating a parent's rights will cause a child to lose meaningful contact with other members of the child's ethnic group or race.

**HB0300 Illegal Alien Related Amendments.** This bill modifies general government provisions to convert the Utah Immigration Accountability and Enforcement Act to the Utah Illegal Alien Family Transition Pilot Program and to make related changes including addressing enforcement issues.

**SB0051 Statewide Nondiscrimination Protection Amendments.** This bill modifies the Utah

Antidiscrimination Act and Utah Fair Housing Act to address discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or political speech or activity as it relates to employment.

**SB0111 Health Amendments for Legal Immigrant Children.** This bill amends the Medical Assistance Act and the Utah Children's Health Insurance Act to provide Medicaid coverage and health insurance coverage to a legal immigrant child, regardless of the length of time that the child has been in the United States.

**SB0144 Immigrations Consultants.** This bill modifies commerce and trade provisions to provide for the registration of immigration consultants.

**SB0157 Utah Immigration Accountability and Enforcement.** This bill modifies general government provisions, oversight provisions, and criminal provisions to repeal a guest worker program, and certain e-verify requirements, and amends related provisions.



## Year of the Dragon

During the month of January and February the Year of the Dragon was celebrated throughout Utah. The dragon symbolizes power, strength, and good luck. Those celebrating mark this special occasion by buying presents, clothing, food, and decorations; embracing popular themes such as wealth, happiness, and good fortune.

## Quick Fact!

Did you know? that the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population has increased 62.1% in Utah since 2000. Utah is ranked 4th behind California, Hawaii, and Washington with a population of 0.9% who identify themselves as Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander alone, or in combination with one or more races. Source: U.S. Census 2010

## 2012 Homeless Point-In-Time Count

Every year the State of Utah participates in a physical count of all homeless individuals across the state to determine how many were homeless on a single night, or Point-In-Time Count. Over half of our homeless population identify themselves with an ethnic minority group yet only 45% were reported in last year's Point-In-Time Count. This year that count took place on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012 and from Jan. 26, through Feb. 1, 2012, volunteers distributed surveys throughout the State of Utah.

This year Multicultural Affairs partnered with the Homeless Task Force in the Point-In-Time Count by distributing surveys through the Homeless Outreach Program. It is important that the ethnic homeless population is properly accounted for to ensure proper program delivery and services. By providing ethnic volunteers, MCA hopes to connect to the ethnic homeless population who are underrepresented because they may feel less inclined to reach out to our mostly homogenous service providers. This is just one of many unprecedented partnerships MCA looks forward to initiating.

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